

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for handling ~~toxic and infectious fluid waste~~ fluid, comprising:

(a) a negative pressure source;

(b) a separation collection chamber in fluid communication with said negative pressure source, said separation chamber having an inlet through which waste fluid from said waste fluid source is drawn into said separation chamber by said negative pressure source~~adapted to receive fluid waste from a source thereof, the collection chamber having a fluid inlet port, a fluid outlet port and a suction port adapted to be connected to a vacuum source;~~

(bc) a holding measuring chamber having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet in fluid communication with said separation chamber;

(d) an outlet in fluid communication with said holding chamber;

(e) a pump disposed to pump said waste fluid from said holding chamber through said outlet, while said negative pressure is maintained in said separation chamber;

(f) a first sensor electrically coupled to said pump and disposed to detect when said waste fluid reaches a predetermined high level in said holding chamber, whereupon said pump is activated to begin pumping said waste fluid from said holding chamber through said outlet;

(g) a second sensor electrically coupled to said pump and disposed to detect when said waste fluid reaches a predetermined low level in said holding chamber, whereupon said pump is de-activated;

~~(e) — a first electrically operated valve disposed between the fluid outlet port of the collection chamber and the fluid inlet of the measuring chamber;~~

~~(d) — a second electrically operated valve disposed between the fluid outlet of the measuring chamber and a sewer line; and~~

(eh) a microprocessor electrically coupled to said first sensor and said second sensor receive input signals from the measuring chamber, said microprocessor programmed for to determinineg and record a total volume of fluid waste fluid pumped through said outlet by said pump flowing from the collection chamber and through the measuring chamber during a predetermined period of time, said microprocessor providing control signals to the first and second electrically operated valves for controlling the opening and closing thereof while the collection chamber remains connected to the vacuum source.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 7 and further including ~~a first~~ an alphanumeric display electrically coupled to the said microprocessor for indicating displaying said recorded total volumes of waste fluid pumped through said outlet by said pump.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the collection chamber has a fluid inlet port coupled by tubing to an end effector and a vacuum adapted to be connected to a vacuum source.

10. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 9 and further including a pressure sensor disposed in the collection chamber, the pressure sensor providing an input to the microprocessor and a second alphanumeric display driven by the microprocessor for providing a visual display of a pressure within the collection chamber.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 9 and further including a baffle disposed in the collection chamber for preventing liquid waste from flowing through the vacuum port.

14. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 8 and further including a data entry device coupled to the microprocessor.

15. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 14 wherein the data entry device is a keypad.

16. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 14 wherein the data entry device is a bar code.

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said negative pressure source is a centralized negative pressure source of a facility to which the apparatus is coupled.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said negative pressure source is a portable negative pressure source.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 or 19 wherein said outlet is in fluid communication with a sewer.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 or 19 wherein said outlet is in fluid communication with a waste fluid container.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said apparatus is disposed within a portable housing along with a power source and said waste fluid container.

23. (New) A method for disposing of waste fluid, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) drawing waste fluid from a waste fluid source into separation chamber a under negative pressure;

(b) providing a holding chamber in fluid communication with said separation chamber for separating liquid waste from said waste fluid, said holding chamber having a fluid outlet;

(c) detecting when said liquid waste reaches a predetermined high liquid level within said holding chamber;

(d) pumping said liquid waste from said holding chamber through said fluid outlet until said liquid waste reaches a predetermined low liquid level, while maintaining said negative pressure in said separation chamber;

(e) measuring the volume of liquid pumped through said fluid outlet;

(f) displaying said volume of liquid pumped through said fluid outlet on a visual display.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 further including disposing of said liquid waste pumped through said outlet directly into a sewer.

25. (New) The method of claim 23 further including disposing of said liquid waste pumped through said outlet into a fluid waste container.